



San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region

WING BEAT NEWS

JULY 2006

Telephone (209) 826-0463

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/reg4/wingbeat/>

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Los Baños Wildlife Area

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"Wing Beat News" is informational only; it is not designed as a substitute for the regulation books

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DOVE SEASON ON THE STATE WILDLIFE AREAS

The following information is provided to assist hunters, however, conditions sometimes change quickly and this article has been written several weeks prior to the dove opener. Each person is encouraged to visit the areas they wish to hunt prior to opening day to scout the current conditions. A reduction in grain plots will be seen this year due to the late winter and continuous wet conditions throughout the spring that it made impossible to work and plant the necessary fields in time for crops to reach maturity.

Los Banos Wildlife Area and North Grasslands Wildlife Area – Salt Slough Unit checking stations will be open the night prior to September 1st to conduct a lottery for the hunt. The lottery will be run identically to the one run during waterfowl season. Please see page 4 for further details of the procedures of the lottery system.

A copy of the Department of Fish and Game's Game Bird Heritage press release and reservation application are on pages 15-17. See pages 18-23 for maps.

LOS BANOS WILDLIFE AREA

The Los Banos Wildlife Area, will be open to dove hunting September 1-15. Non-fee permits will be issued to all hunters at the Los Banos WLA check station on opening day September 1st until 12:00 p.m. The check station will open 2 hours before shoot time. There are no fees to hunt doves at the Los Banos WLA, but all hunters must have a 2006-07 hunting license, an upland game bird stamp and a federal harvest information stamp. Lead shot is permitted for dove hunting and there is no shell limit for the September dove season.

To improve hunting quality and reduce crowding the Los Banos WLA will have two designated hunt areas with controlled entry on the opening day morning. Hunt area 1 will be accessible from parking lot 8, and area 2 will be accessible from parking lot 11. The two hunt areas will accommodate up to a total of 100 hunters. Hunter quotas for the controlled hunt zones not filled by reservation holders will be filled first by lottery participants and then by a first-come, first-serve basis. Reservation holders must be present and checked in no later than one hour before shoot time. At that time the reservation has expired. Quotas may vary depending on habitat conditions and the number of dove present prior to September 1. Except for the closed zone (see area map), the remainder of the wildlife area will be open to first-come, first serve hunters.

After noon on the opening day and through the remainder of the early season, dove hunters will check in at the self-registration booth for hunting. Please record your take and return the self-registration card when leaving the area.

Grain plots including safflower, vetch, wheat, and other cereal grains have been planted to benefit upland game. To minimize disturbance to arriving waterfowl, early flooding of seasonal wetlands will focus on areas that will not be affected by dove hunting. The entire waterfowl season closed zone will be closed to dove hunting. Closed areas will be posted "Closed Zone" to assist hunters with avoidance of those locations.

Hunters are encouraged to visit the area prior to opening day for scouting purposes. Maps and information regarding the area will be available at the self-registration booth.

O'NEILL FOREBAY WILDLIFE AREA

The O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area will be open to dove hunting throughout the legal season. This Type C Area requires self-registration at the entrance kiosk. Keep the no-fee permit card with you while you are on the area and please be certain to deposit it in the drop box in the kiosk upon leaving. Be sure to record your take on the permit when you return it. The number of hunters on the wildlife area will not be regulated. Area staff have planted food plots on the wildlife area. In addition to dove, the area is expected to have good rabbit hunting opportunities this year. Hunters should be aware that only shotguns may be used at the O'Neill Forebay WLA. Lead shot is permitted for dove hunting and there is no shell limit for the September dove season.

NORTH GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE AREA

Salt Slough Unit: The Salt Slough Unit will be open to early season dove hunting September 1 -15. On opening day, September 1, the area will be divided into three sections with reservations being issued for 150 hunters. The quota may vary depending on habitat conditions and dove numbers prior to September 1. Section selection will be made at the check station. All visitors must obtain a permit from the check station on September 1. The check station will open 2 hours before shoot time. Permits will be issued until 12:00 p.m. After that time, the area will be open to free-roam hunting and visitors will self-register at the main parking lot or parking lot C. Keep the no fee permit card with you while in the field. Please record any game taken on the card and deposit in the registration booth drawer. There are no fees to hunt doves at the Salt Slough Unit, but all hunters must have a 2006-07 hunting license, upland game bird stamp and a federal harvest information stamp. Lead shot is

permitted for dove hunting and there is no shell limit for the September dove season.

This 2,241 acre unit of the North Grasslands WLA is fairly flat with interior roads and levees offering easy walking or bicycling except during wet weather. The unit is managed for seasonally flooded wetlands, upland game foraging, and nesting fields. On the western boundary is Highway 165 and Wolfsen Road is the southern boundary. The north boundary is at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's South Freitas Unit.

To access the main parking lot located on Wolfsen Road, travel north on Highway 165 (Merced Springs Road) from Los Banos approximately 6.2 miles to Wolfsen Road. Turn right (east) and travel approximately 0.9 miles to the main parking lot on the left. The check station is at the main lot.

To access parking lot C, travel 4.8 miles north from the intersection of Wolfsen Rd and Highway 165. Look for the sign pointing to the right (East). The parking lot is located just over the canal.

China Island Unit: This 3,315 acre unit is also fairly level. There are interior roads and levees allowing for easy foot or bicycle access. The habitat consists of seasonally flooded wetlands, some planted food crops for wildlife, and unmanaged upland cover. The San Joaquin River flows along the northeast side of the unit forming the boundary. The western boundary is along the Newman Wasteway, the east boundary is Highway 140, and the south boundary is private land.

To access the main parking lot located on the west side of the unit, travel north on Highway 33 from Gustine to Canal School Road (look for brown and white directional sign). Turn right on Canal School Road. Turn right on Brazo Road. Follow Brazo Road to the Newman Wasteway. Enter through gate just west of the concrete canal. Follow the canal to green entrance gate. Parking for dove hunting will be allowed in the main parking lot only.

The area will be open for dove hunting September 1-15. Reservations are not issued or required for September 1, opening day of early dove season. Hunting success can be high along the San Joaquin River. One should expect crowded to very crowded conditions for the September 1 opening day. Lead shot is permitted for dove hunting and there is no shell limit for the September dove season.

Please note – Due to a levee break that resulted in flooding of 75-80% of the western side of the unit from early April through the end of May, the area staff was unable to plant any dove food plots. How this will impact dove numbers and flight patterns is unknown at this time. Hunters that plan on hunting the area on

September 1 should scout the area and look for dove flight patterns along the San Joaquin River.

Gadwall Unit: This 1,503 acre unit will not be open for dove hunting September 1 through 15 to minimize disturbance to early arriving waterfowl. The unit provides limited dove hunting opportunity and has no planted food crops for upland game birds.

MENDOTA WILDLIFE AREA

The Mendota Wildlife Area (MWA) is the largest wildlife area in central California, encompassing 12,425 acres. The MWA staff continue to work with the Game Bird Heritage Program to increase food and cover for upland birds, including dove and pheasant. This year there is approximately 600 acres of upland habitat scheduled to be planted including safflower (142 acres), sudan, corn and barley. Upland game fields are scattered throughout the area. Rattlesnakes are present on the wildlife area and caution should be observed.

On September 1, all persons entering the Mendota WLA must register at the check station. The check station will open 2 hours before shoot time. No reservations are required. At the time of this writing one of the three fields scheduled for safflower on the Traction Ranch have not been planted. If production of safflower on the Traction Ranch approaches levels achieved in past years a limited number of vehicles will be permitted on a first come first serve basis to parking lots 2, 21 and 22 (see the "Game Bird Heritage Hunts" article on page 15 of this newsletter for additional information). The remainder of the area will be open to all licensed hunters. The Traction Ranch area will be open to all hunters after 12:00 pm on September 1st. Upon leaving, please stop at the check station to allow DFG personnel to count and determine the age of dove taken. This will give accurate biological information for management of the species.

From September 2-15, sign in at the self-registration booth before entering; maps are available at this point. When leaving the area, please stop, record your take, and return your self-registration permit card.

Maps and information will be available from DFG personnel at the check station on September 1st. There are no fees to hunt doves at the Mendota WLA, but all hunters must have a 2006-07 hunting license, upland game bird stamp and a federal harvest information stamp. Lead shot is permitted for dove hunting and there is no shell limit for the September dove season.

FEDERAL REFUGES WITHIN SAN LUIS NWR COMPLEX ARE NOT OPEN TO DOVE HUNTING

Hunters should note that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges (San Luis NWR complex including Blue Goose, Kesterson, Arena Plains, Freitas, East & West Bear Creek and San Luis Units, and Merced NWR) are not open for dove or rabbit hunting at any time. Information regarding recreational opportunities for these areas may be obtained by calling (209) 826-3508 or writing U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 2176, Los Banos, CA 93635.

CHECK STATION OPERATIONS AT LOS BANOS WLA AND NORTH GRASSLANDS WLA – SALT SLOUGH UNIT

On the morning of September 1 after all reservation holders, lottery participants, and those people on the first-come, first-served list have been processed and issued permits, any remaining persons on the lottery or first-come lists that are not present will be removed from the list. If the area reaches its maximum capacity before all persons on the lottery or first come lists are issued permits, remaining persons on those lists will be called to reaffirm their interest in remaining on the waiting list for refilling the area. For example, if the hunt area reaches maximum capacity when lottery draw number 7 checks through, lottery draw number 8 becomes first on the list for refilling the area. If the hunter who drew number 8 is not present, that person will be removed from the waiting list, along with any others not present. If lottery draw number 9 is present, they will be moved to first on the list. A revised waiting list of those still present will be made in which hunters will maintain their order of entry relative to others who are still present and waiting.

Persons on the revised waiting list may indicate a hunting assignment preference. If vacancies first occur for assignments other than the choices indicated, permits will be issued to the next person in line who does not have a specific preference.

At both checking stations, persons signing up for the first-come, first-served list, to be called after the lottery draw, must do so in person. If that person is with another person, they must both sign up as a party or as individuals. Persons signing as a party will receive the same hunt assignment in the same manner as those entering with a reservation or a lottery number. They will not be allowed to take a separate assignment. If they sign in as individuals and only one hunt assignment is available, only one person will receive the assignment. This is intended to provide better and more equitable hunting opportunities.

LOTTERY SYSTEM PROCEEDURE

As with last season, the Los Banos WLA and the North Grassland WLA – Salt Slough Unit will be using a lottery system to establish order of entry for all non-reservation dove hunters. Although intended to mimic the reservation system, a lottery number does not guarantee entry; the lottery number provides an order of entry if and when space is available.

The following table indicates the hunting areas that will use the lottery system and the corresponding check station that will hold the lottery drawing.

Hunt Area	Check Station Where Lottery Will Be Held
Los Banos Wildlife Area	Los Banos Wildlife Area
Salt Slough Unit of North Grasslands Wildlife Area (NGWA)	Salt Slough Unit of NGWA

The checking station staff will begin issuing permits to persons with reservations for each area at the following times followed by lottery participants and waiting list until maximum capacity is met:

Los Banos WLA: Two hours before shoot time.

Salt Slough of North Grasslands WLA: Two hours before shoot time

The following table summarizes the timeline of lottery events starting with the night before:

Time	Activity	Explanation
August 31: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Lottery Registration	Hunters must register for the lottery in person. Hunters going in as a guest of the hunter that is registered need not enter in the lottery. Hunters may register in the same lottery only once per day.
9:00 p.m.	Lottery Drawing	Computerized random lottery draw to determine the order of entry for those registered in the lottery.
Shortly after 9:00 p.m.	Posting of Lottery Results	Results from lottery draw indicating the order of entry will be posted outside the checking station.
2 hours prior to shoot time until area full on September 1	Post-lottery Arrivals	Sign up on a first-come, first-served basis for openings not filled by reservation holders or lottery participants.
September 1: 2 hours before shoot time	Filling the Hunt Area	1 st – Admittance of reservation holders 2 nd – Admittance of lottery draw participants 3 rd – Admittance of first-come, first served list to fill remaining vacancies.

DOVE HUNTING INFORMATION FOR PAST 3 YEARS

Below you will find a table summarizing the dove harvest for September 1 at the State Controlled dove hunts in the San Joaquin Valley for the past three years. This information was gathered through the cooperation of the opening day hunters. The Department of Fish and Game thanks all hunters who took the time in the past years to allow the biologists to examine their doves so this information could be gathered.

YEAR	2003			2004			2005		
AREA	HUNT	DOVE	AVG	HUNT	DOVE	AVG	HUNT	DOVE	AVG
Los Banos	243	838	3.4	156	1161	7.9	151	683	4.5
Salt Slough*	229	705	3.1	200	860	4.3	290	529	1.82
China Island*	300	--	--	132	1056	8	estimates not taken		
O'Neill Forebay*	44	101	2.3	84	53	0.6	53	35	0.7
Mendota	176	464	2.6	81	487	6	136	639	4.7
Pilibos	75	620	8.3	75	682	9.1	70	578	8.26
Tranquillity	42	255	6.1	38	183	4.8	26	62	2.38
Huron	37	143	3.9	36	258	7.2	24	56	2.33
Bakersfield	94	587	6.2	113	818	7.2	112	474	4.23
Winton				32	17	0.53	23	74	3.22

*estimated, most figures from first 2 days of dove season

DOVE HUNTING DURING THE SECOND PERIOD OF THE SEASON

Los Banos, Salt Slough, China Island, and Mendota WA's will be open for dove hunting during the second portion of the season on the same days the areas are open for waterfowl and/or pheasant hunting. Hunters possessing a junior license enter free, but must be accompanied by an adult. All hunters must register at the check station before entering the area.

Dove hunting on Little Panoche Reservoir, San Luis Reservoir, Cottonwood Creek, and O'Neill Forebay WA's will be available everyday of the season with the exception of O'Neill Forebay WA which will be closed for general public use on November 18, and December 2, 2006, to allow for the annual junior pheasant hunt. Be sure to register at the self-registration booth upon entry and report your harvest on the permit and return it to the box in the self-registration booth at the end of the day.

No dove hunting is allowed on Volta Wildlife Area or the Gadwall Unit of the North Grasslands Wildlife Area.

UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP HELPS SUPPORT "WING BEAT NEWS" AND UPLAND HABITAT

Under the Game Bird Heritage Program, funds generated from the sale of the upland game bird stamp have provided a dedicated source of funding for promoting and enhancing upland game hunting opportunities and access to both private and public lands in California. Additionally, Game Bird Heritage contributes funds for materials and postage for "Wing Beat News". The funds generated from the sale of the stamp are also used for managing upland game habitats in wildlife areas, such as planting safflower for the dove hunting program.

TYPE "A" WILDLIFE AREAS CLOSED TO PUBLIC USE BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 15

Los Banos (including the Mud Slough Unit), Volta, North Grasslands (including Salt Slough, China Island, and Gadwall Units), and Mendota Wildlife Areas will close to general public use at sundown Friday, September 15, 2006, to allow newly arriving waterfowl undisturbed places to rest and feed. The closure allows the wildlife area staffs to prepare the various wildlife areas for waterfowl season. The wildlife areas will re-open to general public use approximately two weeks after the close of the waterfowl hunting season.

MANAGER'S CORNER

The late, very wet winter and spring seasons appear to finally be over, leading to a very busy May through September work period for wildlife area staff. We thought readers would be interested in the positive and negative aspects of a long waterfowl season, a wetter than normal late winter thru spring, and update readers on what is happening on the San Joaquin Valley Wildlife Areas.

As with last year, many wildlife species seem to have responded very favorably to the wet winter and spring. Habitat and water conditions have been conducive for good waterfowl production and its looking like a good pheasant year as well, with field staff seeing numerous duck and pheasant broods recently. A recent Department news release indicates that statewide waterfowl pair surveys show a twenty-five percent increase in waterfowl pairs in California compared to last year. This could lead to two consecutive years of good waterfowl production in the State which is great news for waterfowlers. It remains to be seen how quail, dove, song birds and other passerines will respond to the heavy May rains that fell in San Joaquin Valley. It might have had a bit of a negative effect on young broods, as these species do not tolerate wet, cold conditions as well as other avian species such as waterfowl and shorebirds. The cottontail rabbit population has exploded on most valley floor wildlife areas and fawn production should be good on properties with deer populations, such as Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area. As an aside, you may notice that we have included some deer harvest numbers for these foothill properties in this issue.

As beneficial as wet springs can be for wildlife and the waterfowl hunters may welcome the longer season, this condition create challenges for wildlife area managers and staff. The expanded waterfowl season keeps staff working check station duties longer, delaying equipment maintenance and repairs that normally are done this time of year. The wet conditions also delay field work and annual maintenance such road grading, levee repairs, etc. In fact, some safflower plantings were not accomplished this year on most of the local wildlife areas. As a result of high flows in the San Joaquin River, the China Island unit of North Grasslands Wildlife Area is still seventy-eighty percent under water. Obviously, no safflower planting was able to take place this year at China Island. In general, marsh management activities and restoration projects have also been some what delayed.

At the same time, two consecutive wet years have created ideal growing conditions for invasive weeds, such as perennial pepperweed which is prominent in wetland and riparian areas. An additional problem is the many species of thistle which favor upland habitats and are expanding into foothill properties. While Area staff has made a valiant effort to contain and control many of these species and we have seen successful containment on some units, the recent weather patterns have helped expand populations of unwanted species on other units. We continue to monitor and control these invasive species as time and personnel limitations allow.

The run-off from late season snow has flooded many areas in the Tulare Lake basin creating conditions conducive to botulism outbreaks, which can be devastating to waterfowl. Mendota Wildlife Area staff is monitoring the flooded areas in this vicinity in

an attempt to catch any outbreaks in its early stages. Wildlife Area staff will also be testing and monitoring for Avian Influenza this summer and into the fall; stay tuned, as this may become a serious issue in the near future. While we're on the subject of diseases, West Nile Virus is still being found in the San Joaquin Valley. Wildlife Area staff continue to work with local mosquito abatement districts and other partners to minimize mosquito production on Department lands.

On the what's new and project front, there are many things happening and scheduled for this summer. At Volta Wildlife Area, the entire pipeline system that carries water from the Volta pump/lift station is being replaced. Funds for this project are being provided by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and the project is expected to be complete by early August. On the Los Banos Wildlife Area and the Salt Slough unit of North Grasslands Wildlife Area, two riparian/wetland restoration projects are in the initiation stage and should be completed by the end of August. Los Banos Wildlife Area has several other wetland restoration projects have been started in fields 17-19, 1-6 and in the Ruth Lake vicinity; all of these projects are expected to be complete by mid-August. I'm sure I may be missing some projects but we will update you in the September issue.

Another exciting proposal slated to take place late this summer or early fall, is the moving of the Grasslands Environmental Education Center (GEECe) to the interpretive marsh at Los Banos Wildlife Area. This project, funded by WCB, will relocate the GEECe modular building from its current location at the Liberty Packing tomato processing facility to the Wildlife Area. This will provide a secure, year round facility for wetland oriented public outreach and education to schools and other user groups. If all goes well, GEECe should be up and running by late winter. If you are interested in scheduling a class or tour please contact us at the Los Banos Wildlife Area.

Have a great summer, if you get the chance, come out to the wildlife areas, and bring the kids fishing or maybe just look around. The weather may be a little warm but there is usually something interesting to see in the way of wildlife, especially if you get out early in the morning.

SIGN UP FOR HUNTER SAFETY CLASSES NOW!

Do you know a youth or adult that would like to learn about the sport of hunting? Now is the time to find a hunter safety class for that person and get him or her enrolled so they will have a hunting license before dove, pheasant, or waterfowl season. Don't wait until the week before the season opens, as classes may be unavailable in your area at that time.

All new hunters in California, regardless of age, must have a hunter safety certificate before they can obtain a license.

Many hunters going out of state will be required to produce a valid hunter safety certificate before obtaining their out of state license and tags, even though they have a current California license. So if you can't find your certificate, you may want to sign up for a class.

To locate a class near you, check at your favorite sporting goods store or call the nearest Regional DFG Office listed at the back at this newsletter.

UPLAND GAME HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES ON BLM AND ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LANDS

In addition to the State wildlife areas, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provide hunting opportunities on many of its lands. Unfortunately, a main number is not provided for California. It is best to contact a regional office based on where you would like to hunt for guidance into the different lands. Please refer to their appropriate websites at www.usace.army.mil and www.blm.gov for further guidance to the regional office to contact number and address.

The Panoche and Tumey Hills vicinity (west of Interstate 5 in Fresno County) on BLM property has been known to provide good upland bird hunting. Please see attached map and consult the Hollister BLM office for more information at (831) 630-5000.

Army Corps of Engineers has many lakes for general recreation, but also for hunting to be taken place in locations nearby. For example, Eastman Lake near Raymond provides hunting opportunities for dove, deer, and some waterfowl. For more information, please contact the Raymond Regional office at (559) 689-3255.

Note: Contact a regional office prior to hunting to go over any additional regulations or rules to hunting on their lands. CA Department of Fish and Game regulations apply; however, additional rule might exist.

ADDITIONAL UPLAND GAME BIRD HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES IN MERCED AND FRESNO COUNTIES

San Luis Reservoir Wildlife Area, Upper and Lower Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Areas, and Little Panoche Reservoir Wildlife Area also have upland game bird hunting opportunities. Although few doves are traditionally harvested at these areas, they may be an alternative to the more crowded hunting areas. In addition to doves, quail hunting is another opportunity available on these areas. Fall turkey hunting is available at Upper Cottonwood and San Luis Reservoir WAs. Please consult the "2006 Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas" for method of take restrictions, hunt days, and any special restrictions. An electronic version of the publication is available on the Department's website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.

RESERVE SEPTEMBER 30 FOR VOLUNTEER WORK DAY ON MENDOTA WILDLIFE AREA

Would YOU like to help set up the Mendota Wildlife Area for waterfowl season and perhaps learn some additional information about the area? Saturday, September 30th, 2006 has been set aside as volunteer work day and hunter orientation day, with work crews starting at 8:30 a.m. It should be warm at this time of the year so volunteers should dress appropriately for working in the field. Participants should bring gloves, water and be aware there are rattlesnakes on the area.

In 2005 approximately 50 volunteers participated. They cleaned the fishing access area, worked on ADA hunting sites and set out garbage cans. After the work projects were completed, the volunteers were free to drive the area looking at various sites. Special thanks to all the volunteer workers who helped out last year! Those interested in participating meet at the check station, 8:30 AM on Saturday, September 30th, 2006. See you there!

TROUT RELEASE INFORMATION AVAILABLE BY TELEPHONE

Finding out when and where CA Department of Fish and Game releases trout is only a telephone call away. By calling (559) 243-4005, extension 183, you will be connected to a recording that is frequently updated with the projected trout planting schedule for the western side of the Sierra Mountains from Tuolumne County south into Kern County.

FREE FISHING DAY SET FOR 2006

This year's Free Fishing Days will be June 10 and September 23, 2006. On Free Fishing Days, licenses and stamps are not needed to fish anywhere in California. Anglers still must comply with methods of take, bag and size limits, and other regulations. Free Fishing Days are a great way to introduce family members and friends to fishing. So take someone fishing on these days and introduce them to a wonderful and relaxing sport.

DRAWINGS FOR SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY STATE WILDLIFE AREA SEASON RV PARKING SPACES

The drawings for season-long RV parking spaces at State wildlife areas in the San Joaquin Valley will be held on Wednesday, September 20, at 9:00 a.m. Shortly after the drawing, the drawn RV parking spaces will be made available online from a link off of Wingbeats main page. Please make sure you check the approval box to see your RV license number online. The application deadline is September 18, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. The following shows the number of long-term RV parking spots at each of the San Joaquin Valley wildlife areas.

Wildlife Area	2006-07 Season RV Spaces in Drawing
Mendota	100
Volta	12
Salt Slough	22
Los Banos	25

Daily or weekend wildlife area visitors with RV's need not apply for these season-long spaces as regular parking lots accommodate short-term parking.

Only fully completed official application forms included in this issue of Wing Beat News, received as indicated on the form will be included in the drawing. Forms may be obtained at the Los Banos Wildlife Area and the Fresno regional office while issues are available. An email version is also available by requesting a copy at losbanosinfo@dgf.ca.gov. Please be sure to complete each line, attach copies of the valid DMV registration for your RV, your insurance certificate (binder) listing your RV, and follow the remaining instructions on the bottom of the form. Incomplete application forms will not be included in the 2006-07 season RV parking space drawings.

A person may apply only once, and the trailer or camper may be listed only once in the drawing (only one application per person and per RV will be allowed). Applicants may apply to leave their RV at only one of the San Joaquin Valley wildlife areas listed above. Submission of multiple applications per person or per RV or for more than one San Joaquin Valley wildlife area listed above will disqualify the applicant in the 2007-08 drawings.

Be sure to return the completed applications to the correct address (see footnotes on official form) by the September 18, 2006 deadline. Additional information for the recreational vehicle parking draws can be obtained by calling the Mendota WLA at (559) 655-4645 or the Los Banos WLA at (209) 826-0463.

**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY STATE WILDLIFE AREA
SEASON RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKING
DRAWING APPLICATION
2006 - 2007 WATERFOWL SEASON**

NAME (Please Print): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE/ZIP: _____

ATTACH COPIES OF VALID DMV REGISTRATION FOR RV AND RV INSURANCE CERTIFICATE

PHONE NUMBER: _____

WORK NUMBER: _____

RV LICENSE NUMBER: _____

RV VEHICLE ID/SERIAL NUMBER: _____

TYPE OF VEHICLE/CAMPER: _____

YEAR MODEL: _____

☐ I GIVE PERMISSION TO LIST MY RV LICENSE NUMBER ONLINE IF DRAWN FOR AN RV SPACE.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PLEASE CHECK BOX FOR WILDLIFE AREA YOU ARE APPLYING FOR SEASON RV PARKING DRAW (CHECK ONLY ONE)

- ☐ MENDOTA WILDLIFE AREA (see footnote "b" below)
- ☐ LOS BANOS WILDLIFE AREA (see footnote "c" below)
- ☐ VOLTA WILDLIFE AREA (see footnote "c" below)
- ☐ SALT SLOUGH/SAN LUIS WILDLIFE AREA (see footnote "c" below)

- a. To participate in the 2006-07 RV lottery draw, your application must include: **a) copy of your current valid RV registration slip and b) Current Certificate Binder of RV Insurance separate from pull vehicle coverage.** Homeowners insurance or pull vehicle insurance will not be accepted as proof of RV coverage.
- b. Return this application to: RV Drawing, Mendota Wildlife Area, PO Box 37, Mendota CA 93640 or fax to (559) 655-1517. Applications must be received at the Mendota WLA Office by 4:00 p.m., Monday, September 18, 2006.
- c. Return this application to: RV Drawing, Los Banos Complex, 18110 W. Henry Miller Avenue, Los Banos, CA 93635, or fax to (209) 826-1761. Applications must be received at the Los Banos Complex office by 4:00 p.m., Monday, September 18, 2006. Additional information may be obtained by calling (209) 826-0463

*****DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2006 AT 9:00AM*****

**WATERFOWL SEASON CHECKING STATION
OPERATIONS FOR LOS BAÑOS AND NORTH
GRASSLANDS COMPLEXES AND THE SAN LUIS
AND MERCED NATIONAL REFUGE COMPLEXES
ARE ANTICIPATED TO BE SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR.**

At Los Baños where lotteries for Los Baños, Volta and Merced are held, those signing up for the draw must decide at that time which area they would like to hunt. No longer will a person be allowed to be on more than one draw. You may, however, still register for lotteries at Salt Slough and Kesterson checking stations.

This is being done because people were signing up for multiple draws even though they intended to hunt only one particular area. This created extra book work and made lists so artificially long that many hunters were discouraged and did not even attempt to hunt.

At Kesterson, the Kesterson, China Island and Freitas lottery will be combined as it is at Salt Slough and hunters will make their area choice at the time they obtain their permits.

No permits will be issued and no parking lot assignments will be changed after 3:00 p.m. On all areas the 3:00 p.m. cut off has been in place for several years. One of the main reasons for this is to stop hunters from going into the field late and flaring birds away from those set up for the evening hunt, reducing hunter conflict. To make this work effectively, hunters that leave the field for lunch, to take a nap etc. must be sure that they do not re-enter the field after 3:00 p.m.

JUNIOR PHEASANT HUNT AT O'NEILL FOREBAY

The special junior pheasant hunts at O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area will be held on November 18, and December 2, 2006. As with previous years, the birds are donated by several organizations specifically for junior hunters. A change was made last year that will be continued for the upcoming years.

In the past the general public has flocked to the area to "clean up" what the kids didn't get. Like last year, to ensure that most of the donated birds go to junior hunters, the day after each junior hunt, juniors and their supervising adults will have priority entrance to the area. There can be no more than one adult per junior, but an adult may supervise up to two juniors. The adult will also be allowed to shoot. After parties including juniors are admitted, other adult hunters may enter.

**RABBIT HUNTING, FISHING, SCOUTING & OTHER
ACTIVITIES ON WILDLIFE AREAS**

Los Baños, North Grasslands, and Mendota Wildlife Areas remain open through September 15 for rabbit hunting, fishing, frogging, and bird watching, in addition to dove hunting as described earlier in this newsletter. Dog training is allowed on these areas from July 1 through September 15.

Volta WA is also open to rabbit hunting through September 15, but is not open to dove hunting. Fishing in the Volta Wasteway will remain open throughout the year. However, fishing access is limited to one mile north from Ingomar Grade from September 16 through waterfowl season.

If you are a waterfowl or pheasant hunter, now is a great time to explore the State wildlife areas and learn more about the landscape. The period before the wetlands are flooded for waterfowl season is a good time to learn "the lay of the land". See which food plants are grown, and observe recent habitat manipulations that have been performed in the different areas. By becoming familiar with the areas now, your waterfowl and/or pheasant hunting experiences may be more enjoyable and perhaps more successful.

**WILD PIG HUNTING & DEER AVAILABLE ON
PUBLIC LANDS IN WESTERN MERCED COUNTY**

Deer and wild pig hunting on wildlife areas in western Merced County will be available during the Zone A deer season to hunters with the proper tags and a valid license. Please read the "Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Lands" pamphlet for complete and specific information. Information is also available on the Department's website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.

Many improvements and changes in the management of the areas have increased the number of deer and pigs using the area. Cattle grazing programs have been added as a management tool on both Upper and Lower Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Areas. The Gustine Chapter of the California Deer Association has assisted greatly in previous years to the improvement of the Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Areas.

Wild pig are present in the county, but the population is low when compared to the central coast region. Merced County contributes to about 1% of the state's wild pig take while the central coast region contributes to over 50%. Most of the state areas in Merced County take less than 10 pigs combined in a season as documented on permit cards. In the 2004-05 season hunters using Upper Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area recorded the take as six pigs and hunters at San Luis Reservoir Wildlife Area recorded two. In the 2005-06 season, thus

far one pig has been recorded to have been taken on Upper Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area and one on Lower Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area.

Upper Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area (4,000 acres): Rifles and pistols, legal for the taking of big game are allowed on Upper Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area (UCCWA) for hunting deer and/or wild pig.

To prevent overcrowding, the number of persons hunting deer or wild pig on UCCWA during the opening weekend of the Zone A general rifle season (second Saturday and Sunday in August), will be limited to 35 persons per day. Permits will be available through a computerized drawing to be held at the Los Baños Wildlife Area at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5, 2006. The public is welcome to attend the drawing. Call (209) 826-0463 for additional information.

Deer numbers are increasing on UCCWA due to area management including winter cattle grazing and wet springs which help fawn survival. In 2005, archery season from July 9 – 31 brought in 93 hunters while rifle season increased to 730 hunters from August 15 – September 25 for an average of 134 hunters per week during rifle. Based on returned permits at UCCWA, twelve bucks were taken during the season. One of the twelve was taken with archery equipment.

Wild pig hunting opportunities on UCCWA opens with the Zone A deer season with either bow and arrow, rifle, or pistol, depending on the season. Wild pigs may be taken from the opening of Zone A deer season through the last Sunday in January. However, the opening weekend of general (rifle) season is restricted to persons holding a permit issued through a drawing to be held on July 5. For persons who desire to hunt wild pig with rifles or pistols legal for the taking of big game the remainder of the season, the area is open from the Monday after the opening of the general Zone A deer season through the last Sunday in January.

Lower Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area (2,000 acres): On Lower Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area (LCCWA) hunters are restricted to shotguns with slugs, 12 gauge or smaller, or bow and arrow.

Deer numbers are increasing on LCCWA due to wet spring weather and area management including several years of winter cattle grazing and two water improvement projects. Two dry wells were repaired and a galvanized pipe was installed to water drinkers for wildlife use. In 2005, 109 hunters used the area from August 15 – September 25 for an average of 18 hunters per week. Based on returned permits at LCCWA, 5 bucks were taken during the season.

On LCCWA, wild pig hunting opportunities will be the same as on UCCWA with two exceptions: 1) only

shotgun with slugs, 12 gauge or smaller, or bow and arrow may be used and 2) there is no drawing restriction for opening weekend of the general Zone A deer season at this time. No rifles or pistols are allowed on the LCCWA.

San Luis Reservoir Wildlife Area (900 acres): On San Luis Reservoir Wildlife Area (SLRWA) hunters are restricted to shotguns with slugs, 12 gauge or smaller, or bow and arrow. There is no drawing restriction for opening weekend of the general Zone A deer season at this time.

On SLRWA, 472 deer hunters used the area during the August 1 – September 4, 2005, deer season with 5 deer recorded as taken.

Pig hunting is available on SLRWA throughout the year; however the number of pigs taken in the past has been low. Method of take is restricted to shotgun with slugs, 12 gauge or smaller, or bow and arrow.

Little Panoche Reservoir Wildlife Area (780 acres): Pig hunting is available on Little Panoche Reservoir Wildlife Area throughout the year; however as with SLRWA, the number of pigs taken in the past has been low. Method of take is restricted to shotgun with slugs, 12 gauge or smaller, or bow and arrow.

UPLAND GAME HUNTING AVAILABLE ON THREE ECOLOGICAL RESERVES IN FRESNO AND TULARE COUNTIES

The Department of Fish and Game will open three ecological reserves (ERs) for upland game and limited waterfowl hunting this year. These ERs were obtained by the Department to protect sensitive habitat and threatened or endangered species; with the exception of Pleasant Valley ER, there are generally no habitat improvements or plantings for game species. Upland game and some waterfowl are sometimes found on the areas, and hunting for these species will not affect the primary ER conservation goals. Only shotgun hunting for upland game and waterfowl is permitted. There is no charge to use the ERs. Camping, open fires, target practice or vehicle access is prohibited.

Kaweah River Ecological Reserve is located on South Fork drive about 8.8 miles east of Three Rivers, in Tulare County. This 103-acre ER is the home to the Kaweah brodiaea, an endangered native plant. The beautiful flowers of this plant can be seen in late April or early May, but it is dormant during the fall hunting season. There are limited populations of California quail, rabbits and mourning dove. Terrain is steep on this ER.

Stone Corral Ecological Reserve is also located in Tulare County and was acquired primarily for protection of vernal pool habitat. This ER has several parcels that are accessible to the public. Mourning dove and a limited pheasant population inhabit this ER. Waterfowl can also be found during the late fall and early winter. Waterfowl hunting could be challenging due to the flat, open terrain.

In Fresno County, just east of Coalinga, is the Pleasant Valley Ecological Reserve. This ER was purchased to protect valley saltbush habitat. San Joaquin kit fox and blunt-nosed leopard lizard may also benefit from this ecological reserve. It provides good dove habitat, and dove are plentiful during some years. There are several guzzlers on the ER that receive use by small populations of California quail, but this is primarily a dove hunting destination. About 480 acres of this ER south of Phelps Avenue have been opened to hunting.

If these ERs are located near you, they may be worth investigating for a hunting trip. Remember to leave the area as you found it and to be aware that you are using habitat that is crucial for some of California's more sensitive species. For information on these areas, call our Regional Office in Fresno at (559) 243-4005, extension 132 or 133, or call (559) 332-2021.

ONLINE ACCESS FOR HUNTING NEEDS REGULATIONS, MAPS, APPLICATIONS, ETC.

Department of Fish and Game has made available many items for hunters online. Below is a brief list of how to locate some of the commonly asked items. All directions will be from the main DFG webpage of <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.

Note: Many documents within the DFG website are in Portable Document File (.pdf) format. Therefore, you must have Adobe Reader installed and updated on your computer to read the file. Adobe Reader is available free online at <http://www.adobe.com/products/adobe/readermain.html>. Please update your Adobe Reader version before trying to open a file within the DFG website. Many times this is the problem for files being unable to be opened on your computer.

General Information on Hunting in the San Joaquin Valley

Select *Game Management* from the left-hand side of the menu on the main page. The page will completely refresh, select *Upland Game* from the center menu. It should be the second down from the top of the page. The page will refresh again and select the first link called *Game Bird Heritage Special Hunts Program*. Scroll down the page after it has refreshed to the Northern California Hunts and select *Hunting in the San Joaquin*

Valley. This site has many links to some of the information below and other useful information regarding hunting within this area.

Regulations

Select *Regulations* from the left-hand side of the menu on the main page. Once the page has refreshed, the center portion should have links to general, hunting and fishing regulations. Each area has been broken down further to assist in locating the proper regulations for the activity you are interested in.

Maps

The best maps of the different areas are attached to the back portion of the Wing Beats publications. Follow the instructions below to then select a publication for maps. All issues have regional maps with directions to hunting locations. The July issues of Wing Beats will current plot/food maps of the local wildlife areas if they have planted.

Region 4 Wing Beats

Select *Publications* from the left-hand side of the menu on the main page. The page will completely refresh, and then select *San Joaquin Valley & Southern Sierra* link from the far right hand menu under Regional. Once selected and refreshed, select the issue you need. These issues are in .pdf format and are an exact replica of the mailing issue.

Game Bird Heritage Program

Select *Game Management* from the left-hand side of the menu on the main page. The page will completely refresh, select *Upland Game* from the center menu. It should be the second down from the top of the page. The page will refresh again and select the first link called *Game Bird Heritage Special Hunts Program* from the center menu. Once selected and refreshed, navigate through the section for the appropriate press release, information and application.

SUMMER BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES ON THE LOS BANOS WILDLIFE AREA

Although the weather can be extremely warm, August and September can be good for birding, especially early in the morning or in the evening as it cools off. But come prepared! Wear a hat that shades your head, carry plenty of drinking water, and last but not least, bring mosquito repellent to ward off the little creatures. You should apply it from your feet up, not only to ward off flying critters but also ticks. A repellent with DEET is a must to protect from West Nile Virus which has been recorded in Merced County.

Among the thickets are several passerine species that are resident all year, but summer visitors such as Bullock's Oriole, Western Wood Pewee, and Ash-

throated Flycatcher can also be found. Swainson's Hawks are still about, not only along the riparian corridor, but soaring high over the fields. They can often be seen following tractors, hoping the tilling equipment will scare up a mouse or gopher. In the marshy areas migrating shorebirds are becoming abundant. Yellowlegs, Least Sandpipers, Dunlins, and Common Snipe are starting to arrive. There is also a chance to see less common shorebird species such as the Willet, Marbled Godwit or even a Pectoral Sandpiper.

Many ducks start to arrive from their northern nesting grounds at this time of the year. Now is the time to look for the Peregrine Falcons or Merlins as they follow the southern movement of the waterfowl and shorebirds.

Other marsh associated birds that might be seen at this time of the year are Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes, Forester's Terns, Eared Grebes and Green Herons.

There are approximately ten miles of roadway open to motor vehicle travel, but the entire 5,596 acres is open to birding on foot until August 1st, when the closed zone is put into effect to allow arriving migratory waterfowl a chance to get settled. Please pick up a map of the area at the self-registration booth or in the office to observe the closed zone.

There is an entry fee of \$2.50 per person, but this fee is waived if you possess a valid hunting, fishing, or

trapping license, or a California Wildlife Area annual pass.

The area is closed to all public use effective sundown on September 15 to allow migrating waterfowl to feed and rest undisturbed as they prepare for the long winter.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug 4 – Deadline for Game Bird Heritage and wildlife area dove hunts

Sept 1 – Dove Season Opens

Sept 15 – San Joaquin Valley Type A wildlife areas closed to public use until waterfowl season

Sept 18 – Mendota, Los Banos, Salt Slough, Volta RV Drawing Deadline

Sept 30 – Volunteer work day at Mendota

Nov 11 – Pheasant Season Opens

Nov 18 – O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area Junior Pheasant Hunt (1)

Dec 2 – O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area Junior Pheasant Hunt (2)

The following information was copied from the Department of Fish and Game's Game Bird Heritage Program press releases.



FISH AND GAME NEWS RELEASE

(559) 243-4005
Extension 133

THE RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
1234 EAST SHAW AVENUE
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93710

W. E. Loudermilk,
Regional Manager



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2006

DOVE HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

All dove hunting opportunities on State wildlife areas and Game Bird Heritage Program special hunts in the San Joaquin Valley are being provided to hunters on one combined News Release. Changes this year include: No junior hunt at Winton and some area quota changes. Hunters will be selected for **only one** hunt. This is to provide more hunters with the opportunity to participate in these special hunts. All hunts are free. When applying for the hunts, you must indicate if you would like to bring a guest hunter. Applications may include up to **two** hunters. See instructions under "How to Apply."

These hunts were developed in cooperation with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), Kern Water Bank Authority (KWBA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Westlands Water District (WWD), and the Southern Tulare County Sportsman Association (STCSA). Providing hunter opportunity and hunter access is a major goal of the Game Bird Heritage Program. The Game Bird Heritage hunts are made possible through the purchase of an upland game bird stamp by hunters.

Game Bird Heritage Program Special Hunts

Pilibos Wildlife Area – The Pilibos Wildlife Area is located approximately 12 miles west of Mendota adjacent to the California Aqueduct. Approximately 60 acres of safflower were grown for doves and other wildlife. Two hunts are scheduled for opening day (September 1), and two hunts on September 2: one-half hour before sunrise to noon and 1:00 p.m. to sunset. These hunts can accommodate 50 hunters each day (September 1 and September 2), 25 in the morning and 25 in the afternoon. **After September 2, the area (except for the closed zone) will be open to dove hunting. A permit is required and may be obtained at the self-registration booth located in the parking lot.** The hunts are as follows: **Hunt A:** September 1, morning; **Hunt B:** September 1, afternoon; **Hunt C:** September 2, morning; **Hunt D:** September 2, afternoon. For additional information, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Management section, at (559) 243-4005, extension 133.

Tranquillity – This area is located approximately seven miles northwest of Tranquillity on WWD land. Forty-five acres of safflower were grown for doves and other wildlife. Two hunts are scheduled for opening day (September 1): one-half hour before sunrise to noon and 1:00 p.m. to sunset. **After opening day, the area will be open to dove hunting, and a permit will not be required.** These hunts can accommodate 40 hunters, 20 in the morning and 20 in the afternoon. The hunts are as follows: **Hunt E:** September 1, morning; **Hunt F:** September 1, afternoon. For additional information, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Management section, at (559) 243-4005, extension 133.

Huron – This area is located near Huron on land owned by the USBR and managed by the DWR. Forty-five acres of safflower were grown for doves and other wildlife. Two hunts are scheduled for opening day (September 1): one-half hour before sunrise to noon, and 1:00 p.m. to sunset. **After opening day, the entire area will be open to dove hunting, and a permit will not be required.** These hunts can accommodate 40 hunters, 20 in the morning and 20 in the afternoon. The hunts are as follows: **Hunt G:** September 1, morning; **Hunt H:** September 1, afternoon. For additional information, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Management section, at (559) 243-4005, extension 133.

Bakersfield – This area is located approximately 15 miles west of Bakersfield on land owned and managed by the KWBA. Approximately 45 acres of safflower were grown for doves and other wildlife. Two hunts are scheduled for opening day (September 1) and two hunts on September 2: one-half hour before sunrise to noon and 1:00 p.m. to sunset. These hunts can accommodate 50 hunters each day (September 1 and September 2), 25 in the morning and 25 in the afternoon. The hunts are as follows: **Hunt I:** September 1, morning; **Hunt J:** September 1, afternoon; **Hunt K:** September 2, morning; **Hunt L:** September 2, afternoon. **This area is not open after September 2.** For additional information, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Management section, at (559) 243-4005, extension 133.

(OVER)

Success Lake Wildlife Area – The Success Lake Wildlife Area is located approximately eight miles east of Porterville and consists of approximately 1,400 acres open to hunting on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' land. Approximately 130 acres of wheat were grown by the STCSA to provide feeding areas for doves. There is no hunter quota for this area, and a permit is not required. For additional information, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Management section, at (559) 243-4005, extension 133.

State Wildlife Areas

Mendota Wildlife Area will not be issuing reservations for the opening day of dove season. There may, however, be a limited number of vehicles issued parking permits for Lots #21 and #22 on opening morning only. Permits will be issued at the checking station on a first come, first served basis. The check station will only be open September 1. For the remainder of the season, hunters may obtain permits from the self-registration kiosk located at the Highway 180 entrance. For additional information, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Mendota Wildlife Area, at (559) 655-4645.

Los Banos Wildlife Area will have two restricted areas on the opening day, September 1, with a total capacity of 100. Hunters without reservations will be allowed on the balance of the area. Permits to hunt will be issued at the area office until 12 noon. After 12:00 noon, permits will be by self-registration and all the hunting areas are open to general use. Total capacity of the area is 200 hunters. The area will remain open for birding, sightseeing, fishing, frogging and dog training, etc. However, camping will be restricted to the main parking lot Thursday, August 31. The hunt is as follows: **Hunt M:** September 1. For additional information, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Los Banos Wildlife Area, at (209) 826-0463.

Salt Slough Unit of North Grasslands Wildlife Area will be divided into three sections (northern, middle and southern sections) with reservations being issued for 150 hunters for opening day (September 1). Section selection will be made at the check station. Any space available at one-half hour before legal shoot time will be filled by non-reservations hunters. Section quotas will be filled until 12:00 p.m., after 12:00 p.m. the area will be open to free-roam hunting. The hunt is as follows: **Hunt N:** September 1. For additional information, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Los Banos Wildlife Area, at (209) 826-0463.

O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area, Little Panoche Reservoir, San Luis Reservoir, Dos Amigos Wildlife Area, Upper and Lower Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Areas and China Island Unit will be open to dove hunting throughout the legal season without reservations. Sign in at the self-registration booth. The number of hunters in each area will not be regulated. For additional information, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Los Banos Wildlife Area, at (209) 826-0463.

Gadwall and Volta Wildlife Areas will be closed to all dove hunting.

HOW TO APPLY

To be eligible for the drawing, hunters must submit in writing their choice of hunts listed in order of preference. Hunters will be selected by a random computerized drawing for one hunt only. Applications may include up to two hunters applying as a party. When applying for the hunts, provide the following information for **yourself and your guest**: (1) hunt area (i.e., Huron, morning [G]), (2) name, (3) address, (4) daytime and evening telephone number, (5) 2006-2007 hunting license number and (6) if you have a mobility impairment and need special accommodations.


Hunters may only apply **once**, either as an applicant **or** as a guest for each hunt. Submitting multiple applications will disqualify you from the drawing. Please make your selection(s) **carefully**. Changes **cannot** be made after the drawing. Applications must be returned to:

San Joaquin Valley Dove Hunts
Department of Fish and Game
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710

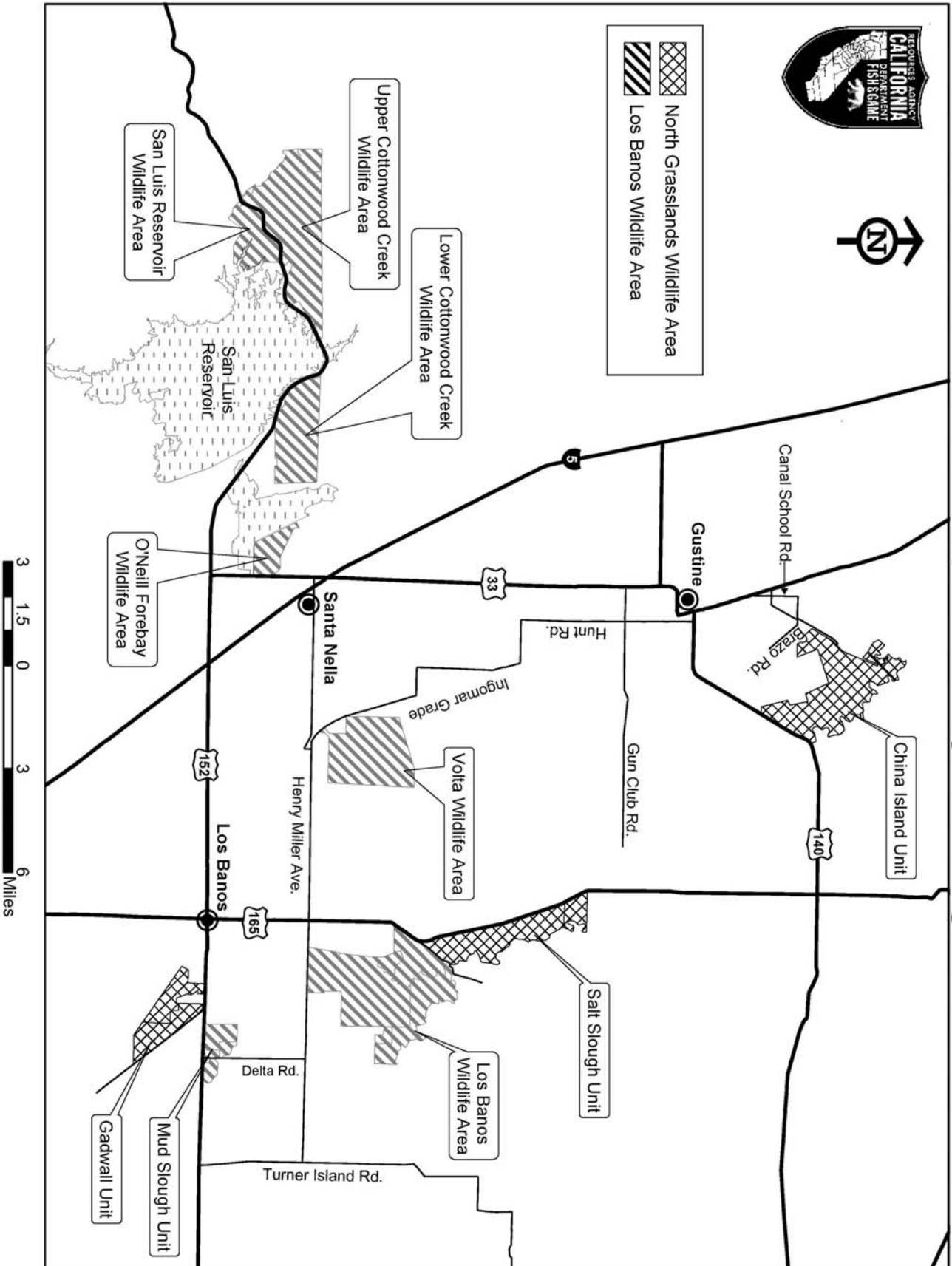
Applications must be received by **Friday, August 4, 2006, at 5:00 p.m.** to be eligible for the drawing. **Only successful applicants will be notified** and supplied with additional information about their hunt. Hunters under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older). An upland game bird stamp is required of all hunters, **except** junior license holders.

Application attached.

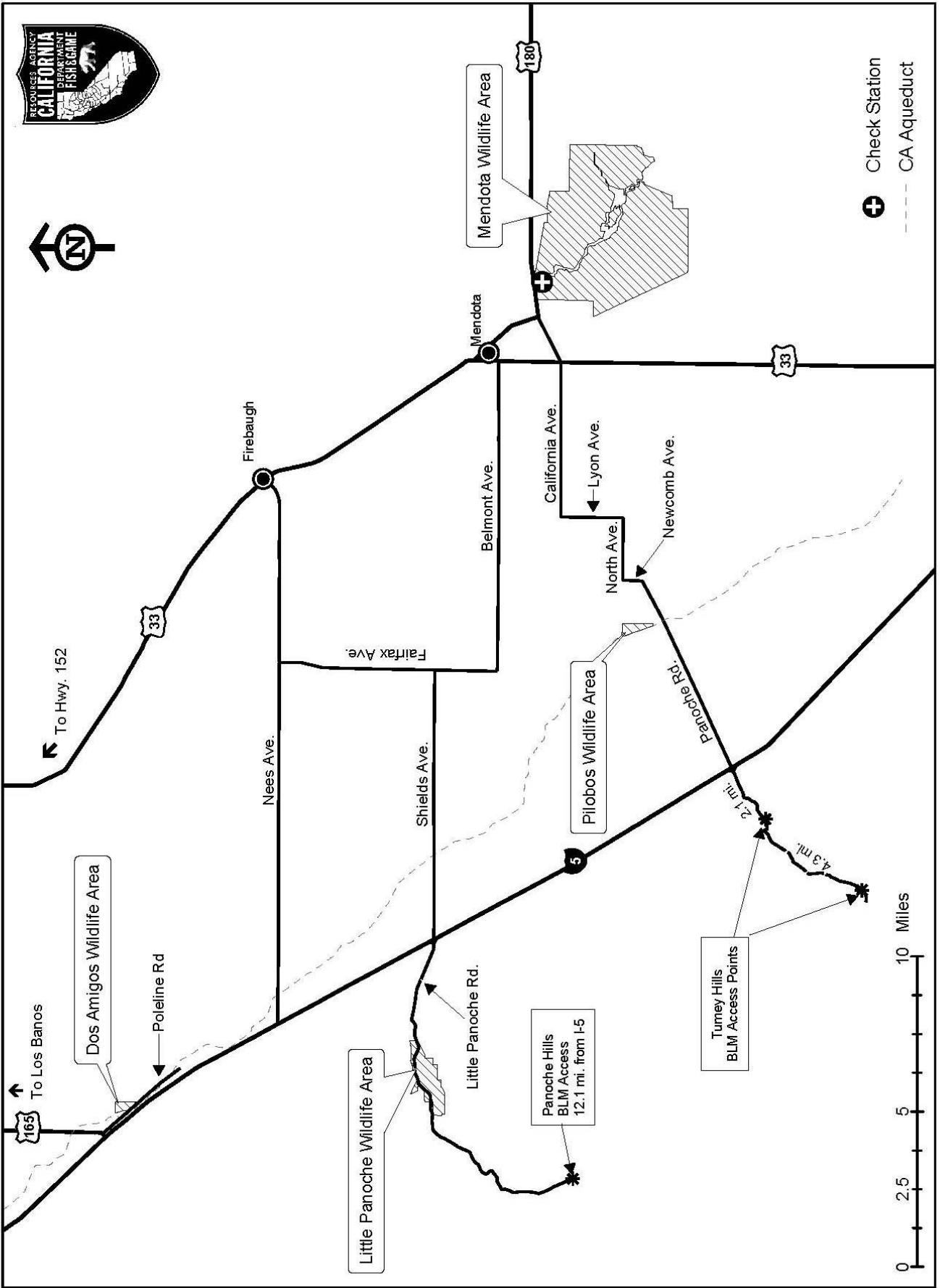
This information and application can be found by visiting the Department's web page at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

☐  Please check this box if you have mobility impairments and need special accommodations.

Northern San Joaquin Valley Hunting Areas



Western San Joaquin Valley Hunt Areas



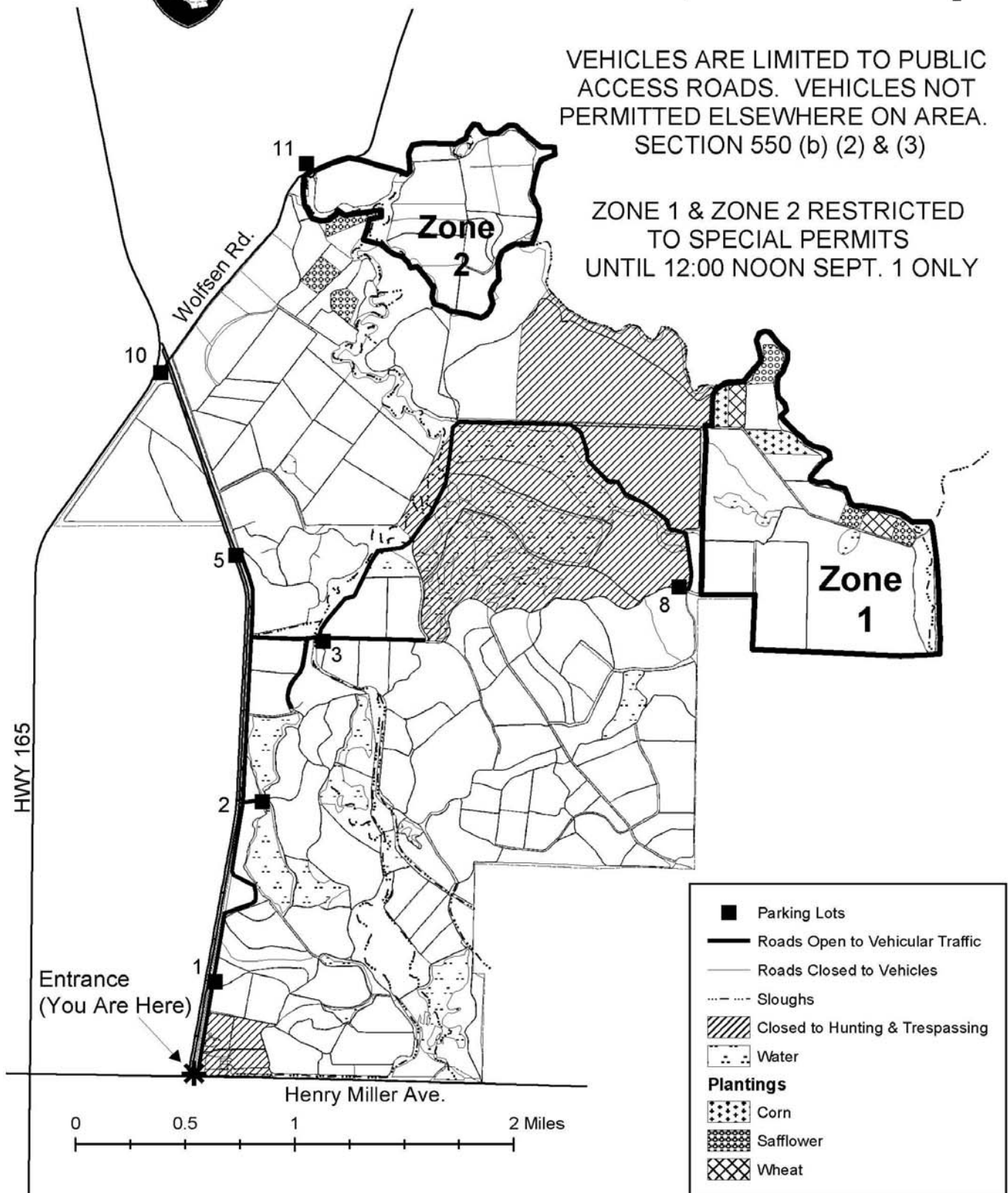


Los Banos Wildlife Area 2006 Dove Hunt Map



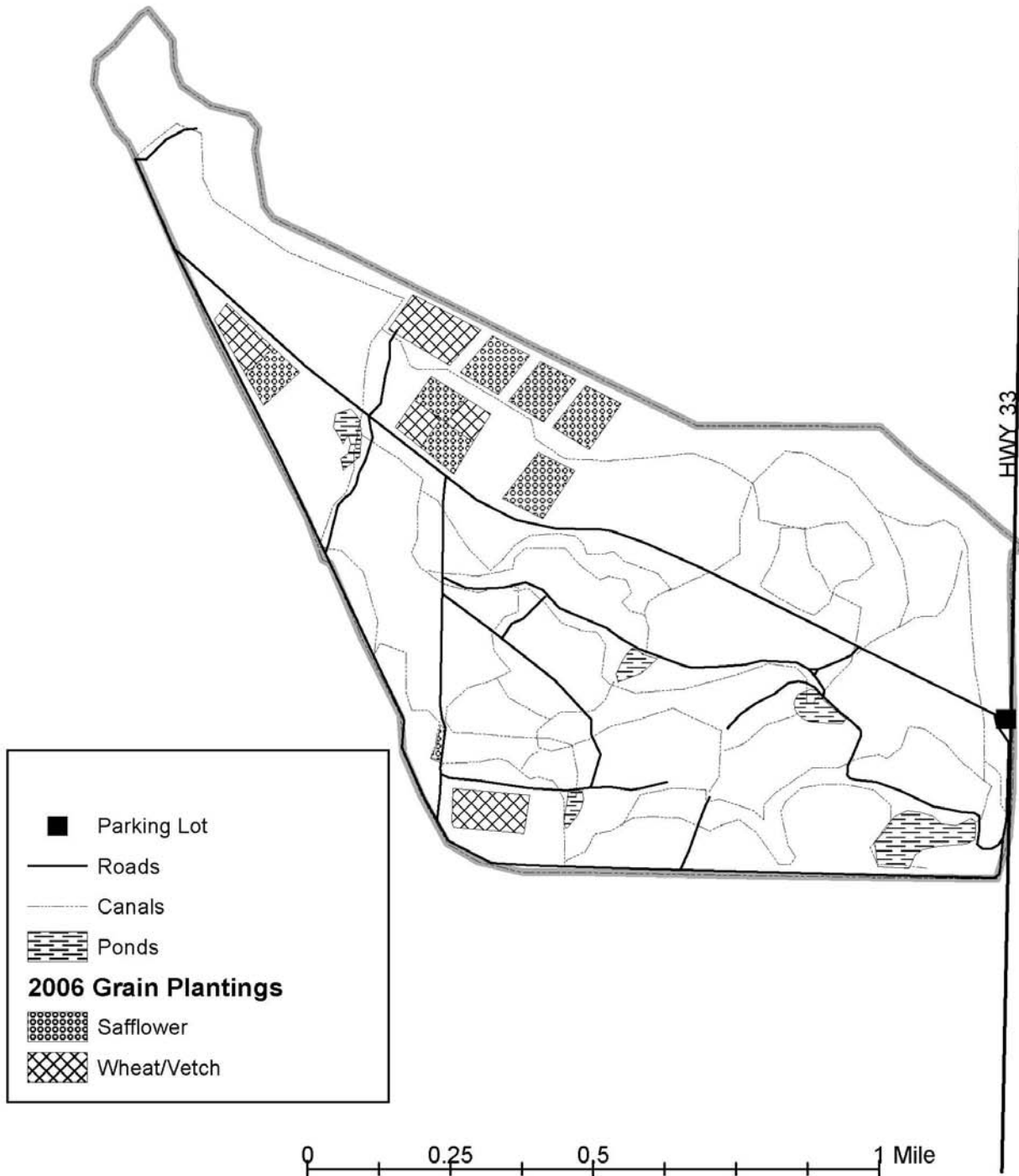
VEHICLES ARE LIMITED TO PUBLIC
ACCESS ROADS. VEHICLES NOT
PERMITTED ELSEWHERE ON AREA.
SECTION 550 (b) (2) & (3)

ZONE 1 & ZONE 2 RESTRICTED
TO SPECIAL PERMITS
UNTIL 12:00 NOON SEPT. 1 ONLY



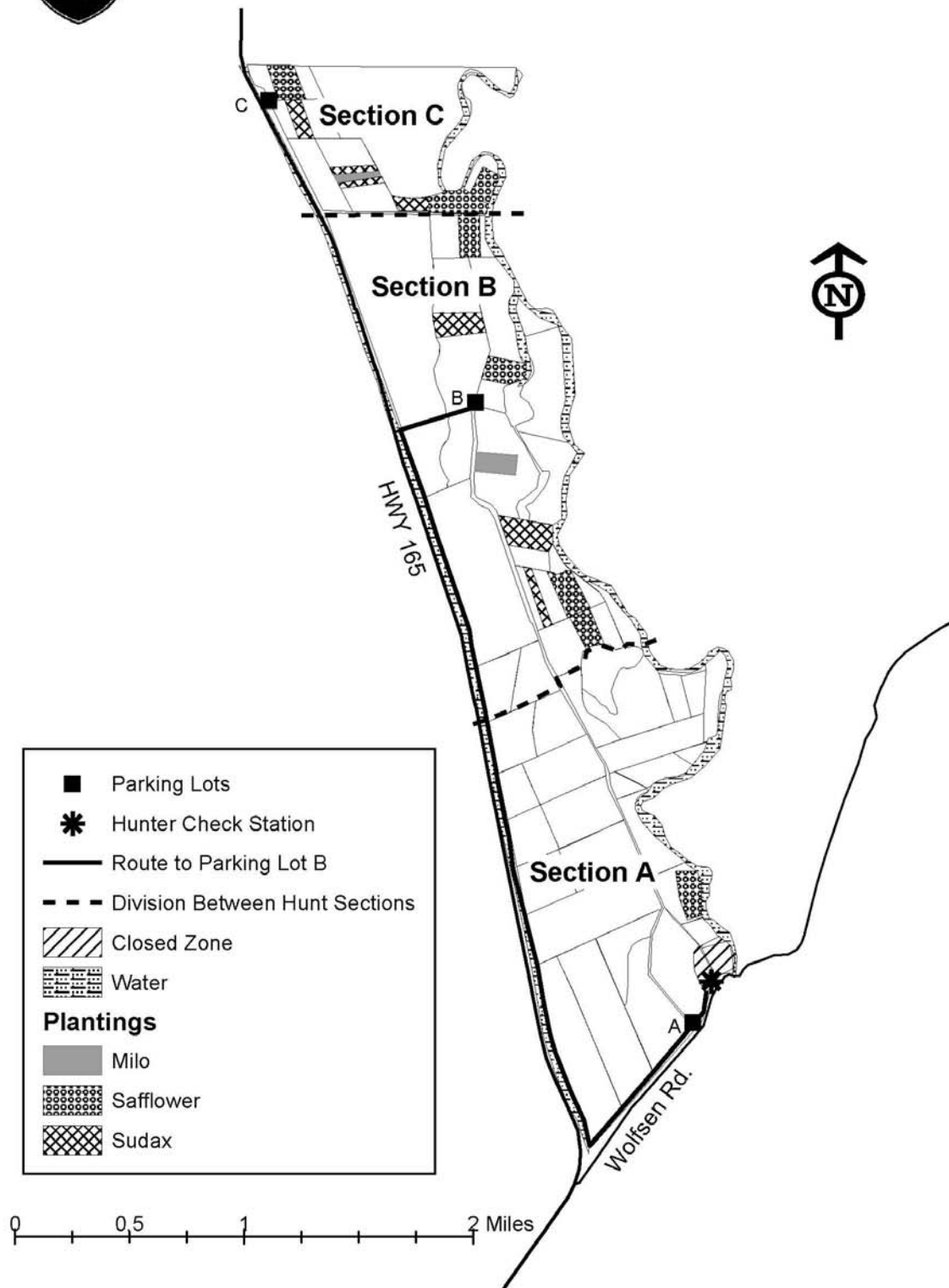


O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area 2006 Dove Hunt Map



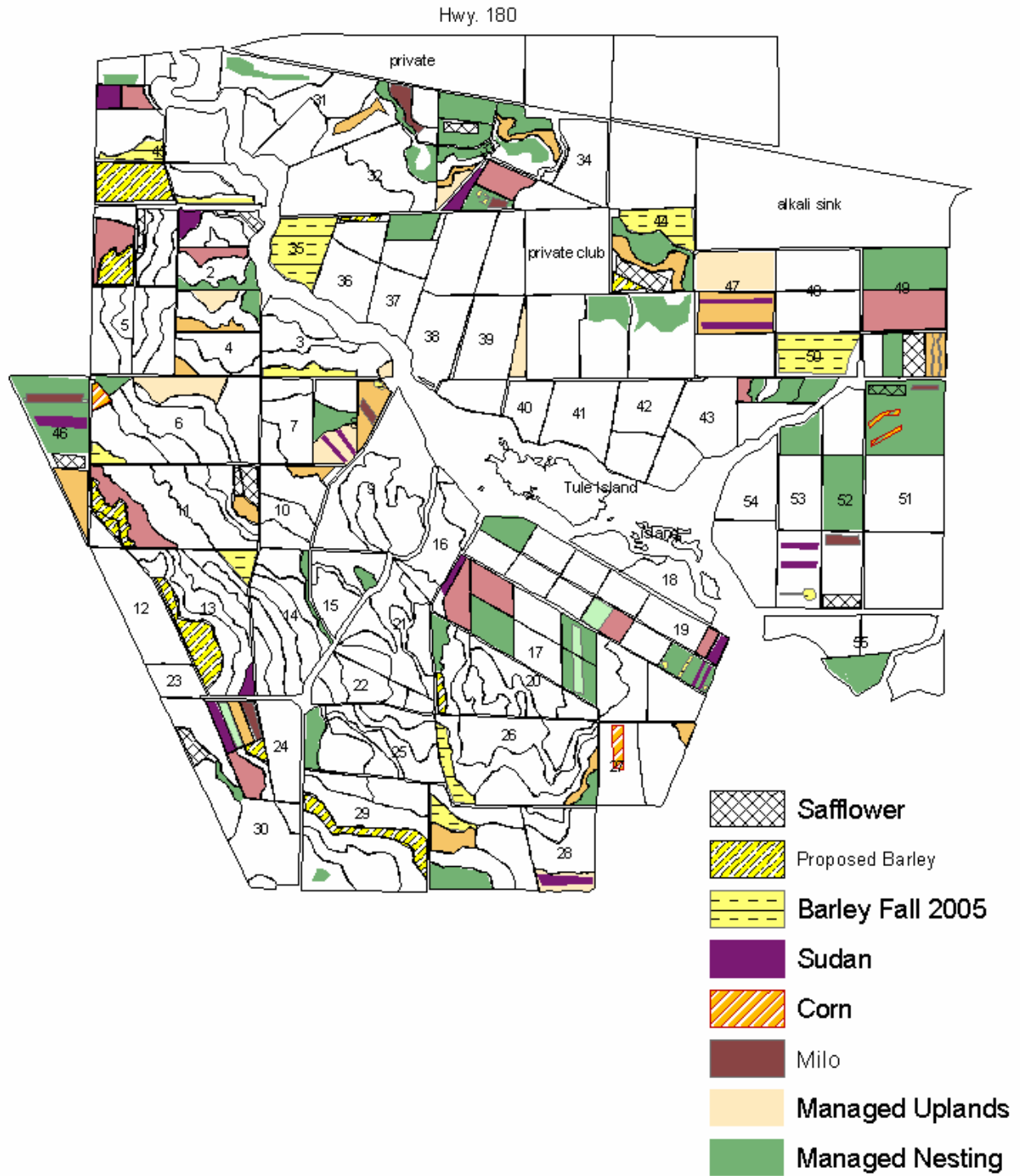


North Grasslands Wildlife Area Salt Slough Unit 2006 Dove Hunt Map



MENDOTA WILDLIFE AREA

Proposed Uplands 2006



Department of Fish and Game
18110 W. Henry Miller Ave
Los Banos, CA 93635

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LOS BANOS, CA 93635
PERMIT NO. 18

**REGIONAL OFFICES ADDRESSES AND
TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

To obtain information regarding the various areas or DFG programs, call the Regional Office near the area you want to visit. Listed below are the phone numbers for the Regional Offices. Please note that several area codes have been changed.

Northern CA & North Coast Region
601 Locust, Redding CA 96001
(530) 225-2300

Sacramento Valley & Central Sierra Region
1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova CA 95670
(916) 358-2900

Central Coast Region
7329 Silverado Trail, (PO Box 47)
Yountville CA 94599
(707) 944-5500

San Joaquin Valley & Southern Sierra Region
1234 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno CA 93710
(559) 243-4005

South Coast Region
4949 View Ridge Ave., San Diego CA 92123
(858) 467-4201

Eastern Sierra & Inland Deserts Region
4775 Bird Farm Road, Chino Hills CA 91709
(909) 597-9823

Marine Region
20 Lower Ragsdale Dr. #100, Monterey CA 93940
(831) 649-2870

Other Department of Fish and Game Offices:

Fish & Game Headquarters, Sacramento
(916) 653-7664

License & Revenue Branch
3211 S Street, Sacramento 95816
(916) 227-2245

The San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region Wing Beat News newsletter is edited by Janae Scruggs (losbanosinfo@dfg.ca.gov).

Alternate communication format available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed, call Janae Scruggs at (209) 826-0463 or the California Relay (Telephone) Service for the deaf or hearing-impaired from TDD phones at 1-800-735-2929 or 711.